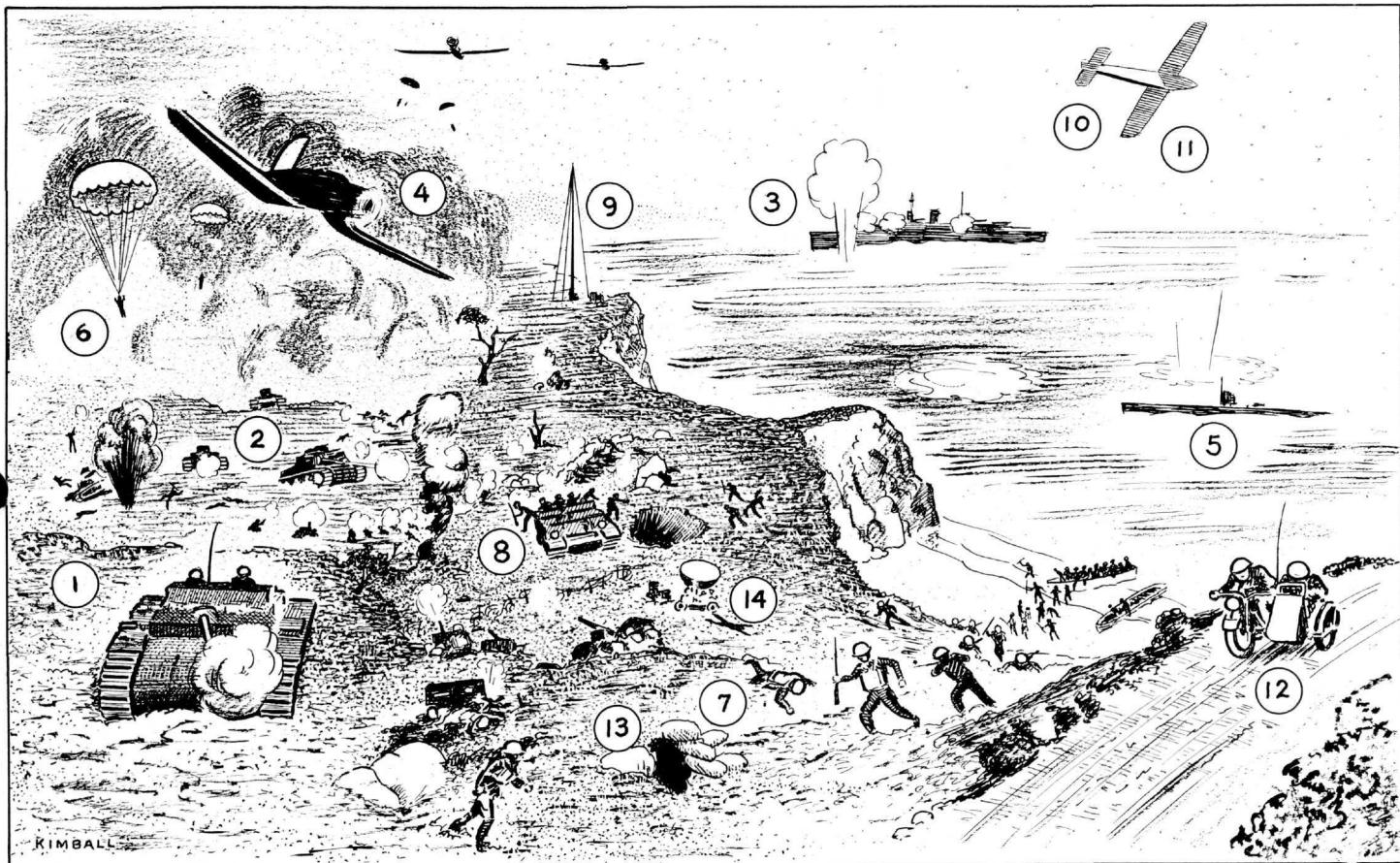




VOL. III

JUNE-JULY, 1941

NO. 8



#### CONDENSERS IN OUR UNITED STATES DEFENSE PROGRAM

WAR IN THE AIR, on land, and under the sea. This imaginary battle scene (above) dramatizes the surprising importance of Sprague condensers as a cog in the highly developed military weapons of attack and defense used in our Defense Program. Numerals identify some of the special uses of condensers in modern warfare. 1. Tank ignition system condenser. 2. Two-way radio in tanks. 3. Battle cruiser has radio, plane and submarine detectors. 4. Airplane transceivers. 5. Submarine receives instructions from scouting plane. 6. Portable sets used by parachute troops. 7. Headquarters dug-out must have condensers for phones and switchboard. 8. Land mine is exploded by remote radio control. 9. Radio beacon sends bombers off on beam. 10 and 11. Airplanes have special magneto condensers and must have special condensers masking out radio interference caused by motors that might distort important radio message. 12. Motorcycle scout reports back to armored division in rear. 13. Headquarters has elaborate radio and detection apparatus. 14. Super-power searchlight requires condensers in intricate mechanism.

An inevitable result of the present American arms program has been acute shortages of many basic materials used in condenser design. Read "Never Like This Before," on page 4.

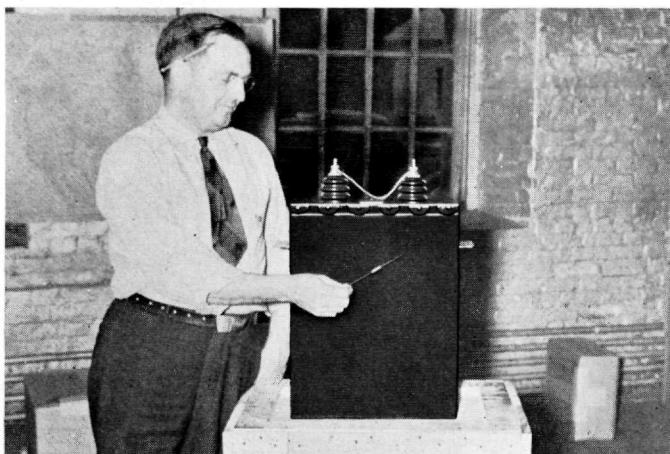
#### Sprague Specialties' Fifteenth Anniversary



IFTEEN years ago, June 1926, the radio industry had begun its spectacular development. A twenty-six year old officer in the peace-time United States Navy who had been building occasional radio crystal and one-tube sets, discovered that placing condensers of varying capacity across a radio loudspeaker changed its tone. He perfected a device consisting of seven different condensers that could be plugged in between set and speaker which were, of course, separate units in that period. Fired by the prospects of creating a new business, manufacturing and merchandising this "tone control," R. C. Sprague resigned his commission in the Navy and organized the Sprague Specialties Company.

Even in the hectic 20's, a new business without an established record of performance could borrow no money from the banks. Mr. Sprague spent much of his time going into the homes of friends and neighbors, plugging in his

(Continued on page eight)



THE LARGE AND THE SMALL OF IT — Bill Kent shows the contrast in sizes of the products we make. One of Sprague Specialties' long suits is making condensers for a variety of special purposes.

#### PRODUCTS THAT HELPED BUILD THE BUSINESS

The Sprague Midget Condenser, placed on the market in 1927, was the "Model T" of the Sprague Specialties Company and, like Henry Ford's famous product, paved the way for better things to come. The history of many manufacturing concerns can be told in terms of products manufactured, and the Sprague Midget was outstandingly successful.

Sprague Specialties Condensers have been manufactured in thousands of variations but a chronological story of the Company's history can be told in general terms by the following list of products and the years in which they were introduced by us to the industry: 1926 (Introduction of the Tone Control).

- 1927 Sprague Midget.
- 1929 Wet Electrolytics.
- 1930 Dry Electrolytics (Sprague the first P. R. Mallory licensee). Home Talking picture machine.
- 1931 D. C. Drys.
- 1932 Paper Tubulars.
- 1933 A.C. Drys.
- 1935 K.V.A.'s Various trimmer condensers.
- 1936 Moulded Micas.
- 1937 Pushbutton Tuners.
- Silver Micas.
- 1938 Liquid Compensators.
- 1939 New type Koolohm Resistors.
- 1940 Welding Capacitors.
- Special Production of Gas Masks.
- Graphitized Condensers.
- 1941 Special Mica Condensers for Aircraft, Magnetics, Transmitters, and Receivers.

The increased use of radio, not only in the home and office and in the form of individualized sets, but especially for military purposes, including plane detection, and the progressive character of our organization and the Sprague Engineering Department serve as good indicators that the list of famous Sprague Specialties will continue to grow.

#### CREDIT UNION CASH TRIPLES

Cash assets of the Sprague Credit Union which stood at \$4,441.09 on May 31 tripled in the period from last December when they stood at \$1,360.18. Total assets in this employee-operated savings and loan arrangement are now set at \$10,406.48.

Shares in which employees have invested have grown significantly from \$3,985 five months ago to \$9,901.75. Dividends may be paid out of earnings after the setting aside of proper reserves. Earnings on the account books of the Credit Union amount to \$361.45 so far. Personal loans which may be made only to members with \$5 or more in shares, have grown from \$2,755 to \$5,960.

May 31 figures showed 322 members and 111 borrowers.

#### GLENN SAYS:

"Today, as never before, we must make every one of our minutes produce more! This greater production is necessary to maintain the American standard of living and to keep our nation free."



MISS AVERY

#### "SECRETARY TO THE BOSS" IS CHARTER EMPLOYEE

Although a lot of experienced secretaries might have been "not interested" in some part-time work with a small company starting out to manufacture devices for the radio, there was something in the possibilities of the young company that appealed to Mollie Avery back in 1926. She took the job and in February of 1927 gave up her position with the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation of Quincy, Mass. and came to work for the new company. Today she is secretary to Mr. Sprague and the only charter employee of the company.

Agreeable personality, efficiency, poise and loyalty are the qualities of an ideal secretary. Mollie Avery has them all. We think this picture of her is even better than the one that appeared in the Log in August 1938.

#### WHO DISCOVERED REMOTE RADIO CONTROL?

Back in his grammar school days, R. C. Sprague set out to be a radio builder and operator, influenced no doubt by the fact that his father was a well-known inventor and electrical engineer. Those were the days of crystal sets; tubes had not been invented. The young radio "experimenter" succeeded in rigging up a half kilowatt spark transmitter which sent out such powerful signals from the Sprague family home at 241 West End Avenue, that it broke in on and interfered with ship-to-shore messages. Agents suddenly appeared in the neighborhood trying to find the mystery operator. Programs from the half kilowatt station promptly ceased until the agents gave up the search, and then continued on a much more cautious basis.

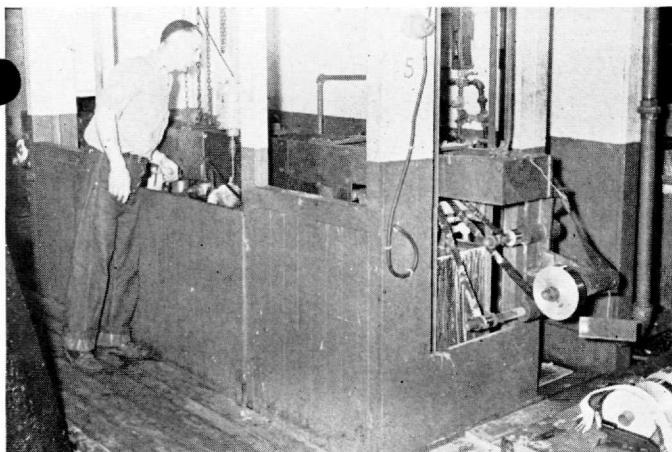
In the summer of 1913 the Sprague family was in Germany where one evening the family attended a vaudeville show. One of the feature acts was an entertainer who gave a demonstration of remote control by radio. A large working model of a dirigible moved across the stage and over the auditorium, apparently directed by means of radio impulses sent out from the stage by the entertainer. The exhibition was regarded as novel at the time but apparently no claim was made to invention.

Returning home in the fall, young R. C. Sprague decided to try and duplicate what he had seen and build his own remote control device. He finally built a contrivance that operated a set of four colored lights twenty feet across a room by means of remote radio control. A motor-driven revolving drum connected to four contact points leading to the red, white, green and blue lights. The revolving drum operated much like an escapement on a watch and was actuated by a coherer that received its impulses from the transmitter. The result of the mechanism was to operate at will a given light simply by signalling from the transmitter.

The interesting question on remote control by radio is "Who invented it?" Probably the exhibition in the German vaudeville house came before the lengthy experiments of John Hays Hammond with radio-controlled aerial torpedoes.

#### SPRAGUE EMPLOYEE CHOSEN BLOOD DONOR

"Many are called but few are chosen." Lawrence Dufraime of the Formation Department was selected out of sixteen different volunteers who arrived at the North Adams Hospital within an hour after a call for blood donors recently. After a satisfactory test Dufraime's blood was picked as the best for an emergency transfusion.



FOIL ETCHING MACHINE is supervised by Ernest Roberts.

### PRODUCTION METHODS CONTRIBUTE TO OUR GROWTH

Skill in manufacture and the soundness and ingenuity of methods of production play a tremendous part in assuring quality and quantity of production, particularly under rush conditions such as exist today. During the rapid developments of the past fifteen years, methods that we have originated and perfected here at Sprague Specialties have solved many difficulties for our customers.

Two of the outstanding Sprague contributions to the condenser art are the foil etching process that has greatly multiplied the capacity obtainable with a given area of foil and the Sprague Graphitizing process that has made possible a variable mica condenser with adjustments that are quick, sure and permanent.

Among numerous other production accomplishments through the years has been our highly developed skill in winding condensers with a minimum loss of foil which has enabled us to keep prices on the models at a minimum; also secret and patented processes for the baking and handling of ceramic insulations.

### THE MOST CONVINCING ANSWER

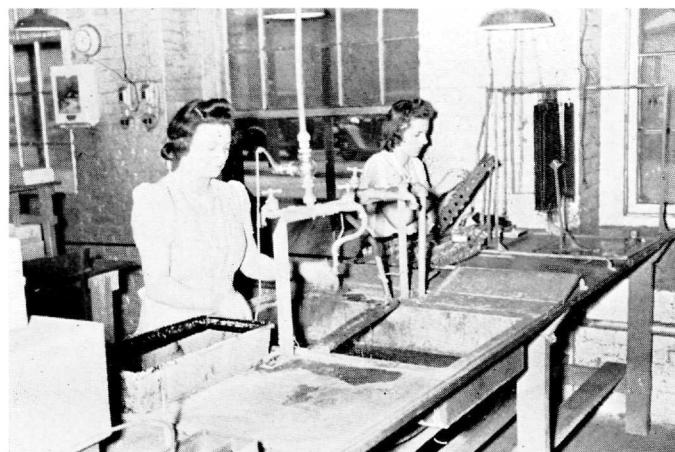
Customers and our own salesmen are vitally interested in the problem, "Do Sprague condensers stand up over a period of years?" A most convincing "Yes" is provided to the question by an experience of a radio user in Boston, brought to the Loc's attention by our representative Harrison Reynolds. The radio user was Mr. Walter Butterworth of the Boston office of the Federal Communications Commission.

Tinkering with an ancient receiver, Mr. Butterworth found three Sprague models made ten years ago. He was so amazed to find them functioning after a period of so many years that he called the matter to the attention of our parts distributor, the Sager Electrical Supply Co., and presented them with the old models which they shipped to North Adams for us to retest. Carefully checked by our engineering staff the condensers were rated still conforming excellently to specifications for capacity and power factor. The only change noted was a slight self-adaptation to conform to environment with respect to the leakage-voltage characteristic. The models were the wet electrolytes with a capacity of eight mfd and peak voltage of 475 D.C. Summing up, Dr. Robinson of our Engineering Department states, "They were as efficient from the point of view of operation in the set where they were installed as on the day the set was assembled."

### EMPLOYEE INSURANCE

New employees of Sprague Specialties should register at once if they desire to participate in the Company's group insurance plan with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. Under our contract it is necessary to apply within six months of starting work. No physical examination is necessary if prompt application is made. The policy has the special advantage of being transferable by the individual even after retirement from the Company.

Ask your foreman for an application blank today.



FAMOUS SPRAGUE GRAPHITIZED CONDENSERS pass through here. Mary Mangano and Irene Roberts are the efficient operators.

### NOTES FROM THE LOG BOOK

Fifteen years doesn't seem much in a lifetime, but 1926 certainly seems long, very l-o-n-g ago. Calvin Coolidge was President and Franklin D. Roosevelt was chiefly remembered for having been defeated as candidate for Vice-President. Practically no one had heard of Adolf Hitler. It took two men to carry a radio set that would get a station more than fifteen miles away.

\* \* \*

It's an interesting fact that Charles E. Wilson, president of the General Electric Company, got his first job in 1899 as an office boy for the Sprague Electric Company in New York, head of which was Mr. R. C. Sprague's father, Frank J. Sprague.

\* \* \*

And it was Mr. Frank J. Sprague who built the machine to make the original one-piece anode used on Sprague condensers. The device was built in the Canal Street shops of the old Sprague Safety Control and Signal Corporation.

\* \* \*

"Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," they say. Quite unintentional in this case, but did you notice that the same photo of army tanks used on the front page of the May Loc later appeared on page 15 June issue of our good friends *Radio and Television Today*?

\* \* \*

And quoting from *Radio and Television Today* we are interested in the fact that in spite of the war England produced more radios in 1940 than in 1939.

\* \* \*

During the fifteen years of its existence, the Sprague Specialties Company has been granted eighty-three patents covering the numerous discoveries and improvements in manufacturing principles and methods developed during this period. In addition we are prosecuting patent applications covering twenty-one active developments.

Five additional cases have been allowed by the Patent Office and only await the normal course of events before issuing as patents; two cases recently have been appealed and applications covering seven new developments are now in preparation.

\* \* \*

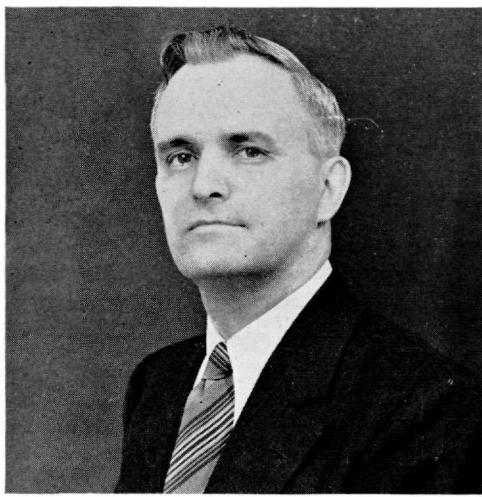
One of the first ads for the tone control described it as "clearing the radio speaker's throat."

\* \* \*

Trying to raise money to get his company started, Mr. Sprague gave a demonstration of the tone control at a meeting of the local Chamber of Commerce. They were interested in the demonstration, but Mr. Sprague got more results by going direct into people's homes, where he could demonstrate on their own sets.

### A GOOD HOT WEATHER HABIT

Lack of salt in the system, due to profuse perspiration on hot summer days, may cause heat exhaustion or muscular cramps. The remedy — a salt tablet two or three times a day.



LEON PIKE

Leon Pike, in charge of our methods and time study department, enjoys the analytical end of his work, particularly being able to visualize what should be done and then seeing it developed to accomplishment. Even since he and his wife moved into Pittsfield from their home in Maine, and he took a job with the General Electric Company, Mr. Pike has worked steadily in the electrical industry.

Mr. Pike was born in Livermore Falls, Maine, and after working on the large dairy farm owned by his father, collecting milk and shipping it to the H. P. Hood creamery in Winthrop, Maine, he married and came with Mrs. Pike to Pittsfield where the two had friends. Starting in with General Electric at the assembly bench, he progressed to the inspection department, became a foreman and was then assigned to time study work. Reading a Pittsfield newspaper one day, he saw an advertisement for an experienced time study man, and it was not long afterwards he came to work in North Adams.

The Leon Pikes still live in their home at Westminster Street in Pittsfield where they have a small orchard with pears, apples, cherries and blackberries. A small garden provides vegetables in season and Mrs. Pike with true State of Maine culinary skill is known for her remarkably fine apple and blackberry pies. They have three children, Kenneth, Ruth and Lois.

Besides occasional tending of his garden and orchard, Mr. Pike's recreational activities include fondness for fishing. Evenings he likes to read the latest trade journals and magazines of the industry, or, when these are read through, a good Western thriller. Most of his fishing is done in Maine, where he likes the trout, pickerel and white perch. Biggest haul was one morning when, with two of his children, he pulled in sixty-five bullheads in sixty minutes. One of his most exciting experiences was up in Maine when he was helping cut ice on his father's pond. The two horses suddenly went through into ten feet of water. There were some dangerous and exciting moments before the animals could be hauled out to safety and then run at a trot under blankets to the warmth of the barn.

#### THINGS EVERY EMPLOYEE SHOULD DO

Notify the Employment Office of any change of address.

\* \* \*

Change own name, if necessary, and name of beneficiary indicated on your insurance policy, when married.

\* \* \*

Send word to your foreman if you are unable to come to work.

\* \* \*

Ask about the Company's Group Insurance Plan if you have not already signed up. It provides valuable insurance at a cost far below what you could obtain as an individual.

\* \* \*

Report any news of interest to your Department Reporter or bring it to the Dispensary. The Log is interested in news of employees (engagements, marriages, births, parties, trips, hobbies, etc.)

#### "NEVER LIKE THIS BEFORE!"

There just isn't any definite answer to the question "When will we get delivery?" Sprague Specialties is working at top speed and we feel we are doing a creditable job in turning out our products under present very unusual conditions. We are, however, unable to get definite promises of delivery from our suppliers and are unable to give more than careful estimates to our own customers. Even these estimates of when delivery can be expected may be thrown out of gear by any of several factors that have created a situation unique in our experience.

First, as mentioned, we are unable to get delivery dates from our own suppliers. This makes a tremendously difficult problem when it is realized that we have six thousand active items of raw material and manufacture condensers to four thousand different specifications.

Secondly, we are up against the job of estimating our own needs for periods eight to ten times longer than we ever had to estimate before. Condenser tissue, for example, which we used to get within four days now takes twelve to fourteen weeks. The same sort of delays exist in foil, brass and other products.

#### B-7 Priority Rating a Hardship

The Government has decided that the radio industry shall be placed in the B-7 priority list on aluminum and zinc. This is almost at the bottom of the list. The result is that suppliers cannot ship to us until they have filled higher classification orders even though they received such orders long after hearing from us. Government orders too, of course, have priority over other orders received here and having a lower priority rating.

#### Sprague Customers Get Near 100 Per Cent

In spite of all these really unprecedented difficulties and the necessity for finding substitutes and checking and testing them, Sprague Specialties has continued to give its commercial customers almost as many condensers as ever supplied at any previous peak.

The employees in the Sprague plant are aware that the more condensers of good quality they can turn out the greater will be the number of orders which they can handle, and the more good will gained, we hope, for the future. Management is also sparing no effort to keep things moving at maximum speed and with a minimum of confusion and cost.

But when it comes to giving delivery dates we can merely do our best — and give the best possible guess based on a guess made by someone faced with similar problems in supplying us.

#### IMPREGNATING DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Dot Bliss

A wide variety of places visited is revealed in the trips and weekend outings of various members of the department during past weeks and include the following:

Isobel Henry visited Lake Champlain and Burlington, Vt.

Dot and Clarence Bliss took a week-end as far as Long Island, N. Y.

Mary and Russ Comeau visited relatives in Boston and then took an outing at Nantasket Beach.

Harold and Roma Sweeney got up into New Hampshire for a week-end.

Evelyn Martin was another one of those who visited Lake Champlain.

Armond and Ruth Vincelette made Hartford their stopping point on one of their tours.

Celia Szufnarowski spent last Decoration Day at Riverside Park in Springfield.

Oliver and Dot Ledger were in and around Canaan, Conn., during Decoration Day.

Mary Cwalinski celebrated her fifth wedding anniversary on May 29.

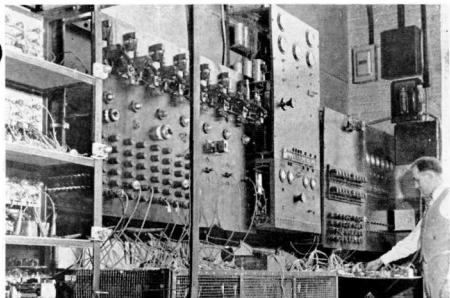
Grace Ranolde spent a week-end in Millertown, N. Y.

#### HERE AND THERE

Marion Boucher and her husband celebrated their fourth wedding anniversary on Monday, June 9.

A recent house warming was held for Mr. and Mrs. Libardi. Mrs. Libardi was Mary Cerninara of the Paper Rolling Department.

The Log is also glad to have photographs of employees and their children for publication. Snapshots of babies or ordinary photos taken on vacations, fishing trips, etc. are welcome and will be returned in good condition after use.



ONE OF THE LABORATORY LIFE TEST BOARDS—William Boldic is the operator.

#### SOME FIRST CLASS AMERICAN FOREMEN TELL THE QUALITIES THEY ADMIRE IN FELLOW WORKERS

What qualities do Sprague Specialties foremen admire and believe to be valuable in their particular departments? Two years ago the Log devoted a special issue to Sprague foremen, including a list of those qualities which a foreman ought to have. We now take pleasure in presenting, in their own words, the characteristics of personality and workmanship on which Sprague foremen put a premium in their day-to-day operation of their departments. All were interviewed personally and their comments follow:

**RAY CALVI:** "I like a man both straightforward and intelligent and with enough initiative to work on his own at times. A man has got to be able to take it, forget past trouble and start all over again."

**LEWIS CRONIN:** "There are many different kinds of men but one quality that stands out is dependability. Checking up on a new man recently, I was impressed by the fact that he was dependable in his habits and in his relations with his family. Such a worker is valuable because he can work without direct supervision all the time."

**NORMAN CHENAIS:** "Sincerity and honesty are most important. The best men are those who like what they're doing. If they don't like it they look for the wrong things. I also value a man who likes people."

**CHARLES DESROSIER:** "I notice it when a man's able to keep good-natured when faced with a lot of problems; a level-headed man who starts on something and gets it done. Give me the individual who finishes what he starts, who digs in and licks it."

**FRANK GASSETT:** "I like an honest man, punctual and faithful; a good worker and an accurate one. I admire the fellow with a good sense of humor — providing he doesn't express it too often. Wisecracks break the monotony. There is no need to be a sourface, I like a gang that will work along from A to Z."

**JIMMY MANCUSO:** "Qualities I admire in a man are neatness and fast thinking — the kind of man who, when told to do something, doesn't have to be told a second time; one who is always on the job."

**JOEL "MIKE" PIERCE:** "Dependability. And progressiveness is the next thing, and willingness to work along with people and try to help them out. Give me somebody who's trustworthy and with the ability to get along with the next man. Personality is another important factor."

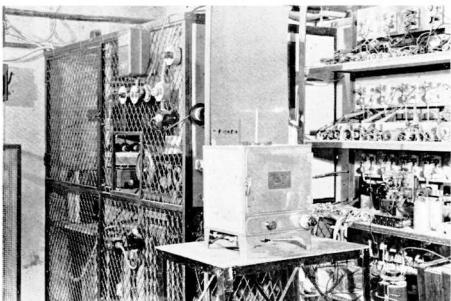
**JOHN PU PPOLO:** "The qualities I expect in a man are aggressiveness and the ability to go ahead with his work without much hesitation. I like a fellow who can do his own thinking. In this department you just don't guess at a thing. You start at the bottom and find the trouble and do something about it."

**THEOPHILE RONDEAU:** "I'm in a position where workmanship is the quality I have to admire. I like a man who minds his own business and doesn't take advantage of the other fellow, and who gets along well. Every man is different and has to be handled according to his temperament; but I like a man who is faithful and doesn't have a chip on his shoulder."

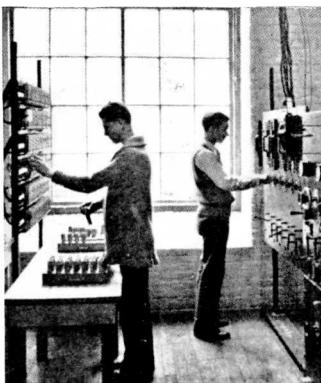
**GEORGE SAULNIER:** "I like a fellow who will co-operate and above all who's sincere. If you bring a complaint he'll really do something about it and not let it ride."

**GEORGE SENECA:** "I like a man who's on the job — wide awake — and a man you can depend on regardless of season, rush or slack. Yes, and he's always got to have a sense of humor."

**JOHN STOCKTON:** "The quality I admire most is ability to handle an assignment without coming back on petty details, also the sense of responsibility a man takes and loyalty to his job. Some



ANOTHER SCENE SHOWING OUR SPECIAL TEST EQUIPMENT



ONE OF OUR PRODUCTION TESTING BOARDS about 10 years ago—a picture taken from an old Sprague catalog.

#### VACATIONS AND TRIPS

Harold and Evelyn Jones spent the week of June 1 in Boston and Fall River.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Mendell spent a vacation in Elizabeth, N. J. Maude Waska recently motored to Pennsylvania.

Harvey, Angie and Joseph DeGrenier spent the Memorial Day week-end in Canada. They visited the shrine at Ste. Anne de Beaupre and Quebec.

Mary Bellows took her vacation down on Cape Cod to be near her husband who is at Camp Edwards with Company K.

Lucy Smoliky spent a few days in Boston.

Bill and Geraldine Brundige have returned from a few days fishing trip at Lake Champlain.

Loren and Edna Underwood tried luck fishing at Highgate, Vt.

Stacia Sikorski has been visiting relatives in Connecticut.

"Bucky" Bernardi of the Paper Assembly took in the ball game when he visited Boston on Memorial Day week-end.

Bertha Salavantis, Margaret Cirone, Victoria Canniforo and Rose Giacoia spent a few days in New York City.

will just work along and if anything goes wrong they'll let it go through. Others will think of the company and try to correct it."

**CHARLES SUTLIFF:** "One thing I admire is a man who doesn't crab and kick all the time. You can forgive most anything else. I like a man who's always on the job every day, not looking for favor, reliable, responsible, someone you can trust. A man who is always dependable and a good worker — it all goes together."



TWO WEDDINGS APRIL 19 — Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Parmenter (Anita Ponti of the Boxing Department) left; and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Faustini.



TWO MORE NEWLYWEDS: Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Blazejewski (Phyllis Dabrowski) left; and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Cuddeback (Alice Cattaneo) who were married June 14. The Blazejewski wedding was May 10.



FRANCES DITSURSI AND KATHERINE HYNDMAN, of the Committee pose with satisfaction by the thirty-one bundles for buddies.

#### HERE AND THERE

Two groups took advantage of the good weather to go on mid-June fishing trips. Hough's Neck, near Quincy, was the destination of a group composed of "Mike" Pierce, Larry Haskins, Bill Allison, Clayton Collins, Nelson Beverly, Frank Grilione, George Senecal, Ray Bishop, Charles Deane, Jim McDonough, "Doc" Hyde, Bud Combs, Homer Giroux, Wayne Davis and Ed Fitzpatrick. Distinction of catching the biggest fish went to Charlie Dean with Bud Combs, Bill Allison and George Senecal finishing in that order.

The other group went to Lake Champlain where really first-class fishing was found. These lucky anglers were Eugene Marceau, Adam Novak, Ernest Sorel and Stanley Zajac.

Best wishes are extended to Stanley Gradiel who recently graduated from the State Teacher's College with the degree of Bachelor of Science. Stanley, who worked for us on the night shift during his time in school, received high scholastic honors upon graduation.

#### ORCHIDS AND DIAMONDS

Rita Gigliotti of the Main Office has announced her engagement to Joseph Marino, not employed here.

A wedding on September 6 at St. Francis Church is planned by Emma Luczynski of the Boxing Department and Charles Alongi, not employed here.

Gladys Brothers of the Paper Assembly Department announces her engagement to Wilfred Lillie, not employed here.

The engagement of Esther Mazza of the Paper Assembly Department and Edward Poplaski has been announced.

An August wedding is planned by Olive Collins of the Paper Assembly Department. She will become Mrs. Edwin Sharkey.

Isabelle Henry of the Impregnating Department will be married this fall to John Mulvaney.

A wedding on August 16 is planned by William Landry of the Machine Shop and Marion Blanchard, formerly of the D. C. Rolling Department.

#### WEDDING BELLS

James Martin, formerly of the Machine Shop, and Dorothy Menard of the Paper Rolling Department had their wedding on July 5.

Warren Pryne of the Shipping Department and Jane King in our Brown Street Plant had a July 4 wedding held in the Methodist Church.

Catherine Ferrara of the Pretuner Department became Mrs. Herve Giguere and June 21 was the wedding date.

Lionel Champagne of the Ovens Department and Gloria Bachand, not employed here, were married June 21.

Laura Lefebvre of the Final Test Department was married May 31 to Wallace Fortin of the General Electric plant in Pittsfield. Wedding was held in the Notre Dame Church in Adams.

Bernice Hamel of the Boxing Department married Joseph Superintendent of Cheshire in the Notre Dame Church in Adams, May 31.

Frank Bernardi and Ruth Davis, both of our Boxing Department, were married May 31 in St. Francis Church.

Tracy Nichols of the Etching Department was married to Marion Davis in Cambridge, N. Y. on May 24.

Rita Paquette of the Paper Assembly Department became the bride of Walter Kowalski, not employed here, at the Notre Dame Church, May 31.

Cecil Quimby of the Shipping Department and Marjorie Dow, not employed here, became Mr. and Mrs. in the Baptist Church, May 28.

Doris Harrington of the Paper Rolling Department became Mrs. Bernard Marcil. Wedding was held May 30 in the Notre Dame Church, Adams.

Alice Cattaneo of the Boxing Department was wedded to Alfred Cuddeback, not employed here, on June 14 in the Methodist Church.

Barbara Beebe said her "I do" to Fred Crandall at the Methodist Church on May 31. Barbara is in the Paper Test Department.

The marriage of Thelma Baker of the Main Office to Lieutenant Edward Horahan of Company K of the Massachusetts National Guard on March 5 has been announced.

Lena Matranga of the Pretuner Department and Norman St. Pierre, not employed here, were married June 21 at St. Anthony's.

Mary Domenici was married to Arthur Del Ponte in North Bennington, Vt. on June 14. Mary works in the Paper Assembly Department.

Dorothy Tourjee of the Paper Rolling Department was married June 28 to Stanley Pasierbaki.

Josephine Pipatello of the K. V. A. Department became Mrs. John Martin, June 28 in Williamstown wedding. The groom works in the Berkshire Mills in Adams.

Another June 28 wedding was that of Edith Duprey of the Paper Rolling Department and Earl Peltier of the Modern Dairy Co., held in St. Thomas Church, Adams.

John LaDue of our Boxing Department and Lillian McPhail of the K. V. A. Department exchanged marriage vows June 25 at the Baptist Church.

#### BLESSED EVENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Dory Mellon are proud parents of a son, born on April 19. Mother is Rose of the Final Test Department.

It's a daughter at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Raedel. Mother is Lena of Paper Assembly Department. Baby's name is Sandra Lee.

A daughter, Bonnie Lynde, has been born to Mr. and Mrs. John Bryce. Mother is Helen of the Final Test Department. Birthday was May 25.

A son to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Caron, the happy event taking place May 27. Mother is Marion of the Sample Department.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gotzen are announcing the birth of a daughter on May 3. Daddy is in the Brown Street Plant.

A daughter, Anne Lorraine, arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mahar May 9. Ray is in Paper Assembly Department.

(Continued on Next Page)

## ALL STARS TAKE BOWLING PENNANT FROM CAN SHOP — DROBIAK, ROY, TAKE INDIVIDUAL HONORS

A bountiful and appetizing meal at Wenzel's Farm celebrated the close of the Sprague Bowling season. Champions this year were the All Stars, namely "Toot" Bergeron, "Ace" Blanchard, Dave McLelland, George Roy and Jack Shields.

The Sprague Products team was second, rallying from the bottom of the first division, and made up of Edmond Cardinal, Joseph DeGrenier, Hank Gamari, Sinc Gamari, Mike Pierce, Harold St. Denis and Lou Siciliano. Third were the Can Shop boys, Robert Button, Clarence Dean, Earl Scarbo, George Scarbo, Clinton Sweeney and Teddy Wilk. They were last year's champs.

Individual winners were:

High Single String	George Roy.....	148
High Three String	Rudy Drobak.....	377
High Average for Year	Rudy Drobak.....	102.9
	Clarence Pratt.....	102.35
	Teddy Wilk.....	100.0
	Clarence Sweeney.....	99.1

Team prizes for the year went to the Machine Shop for a High Team String of 1,644, and to the Can Shop with a High Single String of 580.

Other bowlers not in the above brackets greatly improved their previous years' records, the lowest average being 84.2. Such improved play should tell a story next season.

## BLESSED EVENTS

(Continued from page 6)

Mr. and Mrs. John Locke announce the birth of a son, June 11. Mother is Ruth O'Brien Locke of the Sprague Products office.

A daughter at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Racette on June 6. Mother is Thelma of the Boxing Department.

June 21 marked the arrival of a son at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Francis King. Mother is Carmen of Paper Assembly Department.

It's a son to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rivers. Mother is Clara of the Paper Assembly Department. Birthday was June 23.

Rosalie Ann Benoit was born June 12 and George and Laura Benoit are the happy parents.

On June 17, Frederick and Rita Windover became the proud parents of a baby daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. John Shields are receiving congratulations on the birth of a son, June 19.

It's a daughter, born to Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Drobak on June 28.

## SOFTBALL TEAM IMPROVES IN LEAGUE PLAY

Entering the Industrial Soft Ball League, the Sprague Specialties team opened its season by losing a tight game to Greylock, 3 to 2. Facing Gale's, the Sprague team was snowed under 12 to 0, much to the dismay of a number of loyal rooters. Arnold Print Works also took Sprague to the one-sided tune of 11 to 0. Sprague play was tighter in this game, but again the batters could not hit the ball in the right direction at the right time.

Improved play began to show itself in the second game with Arnold Print, which was lost 4 to 0, chiefly due to the super effective pitching of Art Keller of the opposing team. Art struck out eight players in a six-inning game. The Sprague boys at last began to whack the spheroid again in a second game with Greylock, lost by the score of 10 to 6. A return match proved to be a thrilling pitchers' battle between Bob Galipeau of Sprague's, and Wilson and Taft of Greylock. Taft struck out eleven in a six-inning game, Greylock winning by a 1 to 0 hairline.

Better things were indicated when the Sprague team turned in its wrath on Arnold Print to win by the surprising margin of 11 to 7. The team is hoping to turn in a still better report of itself next time and really intends to make history. Appreciation is expressed for the co-operation from Mr. Sprague and Mr. Cary.

## SOLUTIONS TO MAY "GUESS WHO?"

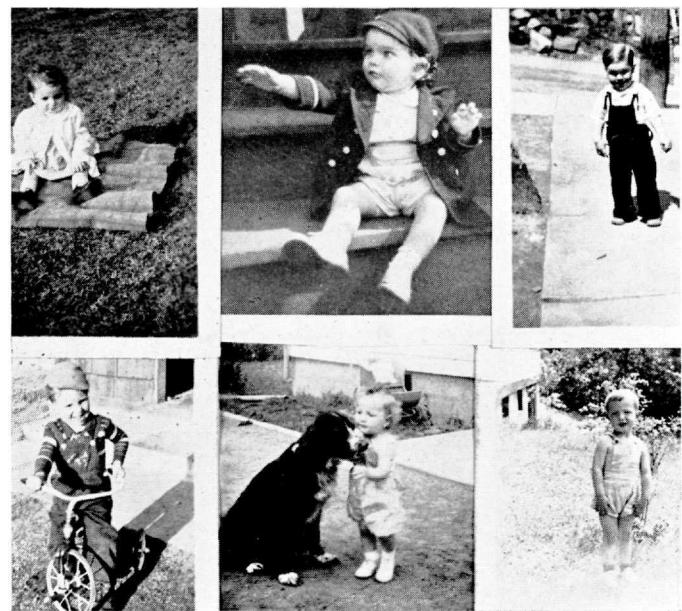
Girl on left was Josephine Convery when two years old; boy mowing lawn, Harold Jones; boy with chum, Raymond Auge.

### REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE

Dot Bliss	Rachel Godbout
Ida Lovett	Frances DiTursi
Walt Carpenter	



AUSTIN ROGGE, formerly of the Ovens Department, upper left; and Harvey and Angie DeGrenier shown with relatives from Canada posed at the Elk on the Trail. Below: Paul Mazinski, Stanley Ziaja, and Adam Nowak with some fish caught in Lake Champlain. Right, John Fortini of the Final Test in his uniform.



ONE OF THE CUTEST GROUPS OF BABIES EVER SHOWN IN THE LOG. Top row, right to left, Marcia Agnes, daughter of Stafford and Ivis Lewis; Nelson Bachand, son of Florence, Paper Assembly and Noel of the Maintenance Department; Joseph, son of Dorothy DiMarco of the Paper Assembly. Bottom row: Frank, son of Dorothy Tatro of the Paper Assembly; Sandra Jean, daughter of Rita Girardi of the Dry Rolling Department; and Fred Powers, Jr.

## PAPER ASSEMBLY NIPS K.V.A. IN SOFTBALL

By virtue of a hairline decision over the stalwarts of K.V.A., the Paper Assembly Department is challenging any and all departments in the plant to a game of softball. Their margin of victory was 17 to 16.

Winning pitcher was "Red" Remillard while the losers entrusted their hurling to a trio composed of "Gook" Benoit, Frank Grillone and Marty Walden. Highlight of the contest was Lloyd Bullett's bullet-like clout that zoomed over the left field fence.

"Zip" Solomon's single with Mancuso on second was the deciding blow of the game and highspotted the three run uprising of the Paper Assembly clouters in the seventh.

## IN FIFTEEN YEARS

**T**O explain how a vigorous industry, nationally known and a leader in its field today, could be built in the short space of fifteen years — and particularly the fifteen years just past — would require a remarkable understanding both of the American industrial set-up and the details of the growth of the radio industry. For the growth of Sprague Specialties, organized just fifteen years ago in 1926, from a group of three persons to a company with over sixteen hundred employees as this editorial goes to press, has depended on a great many things. Several of these, however, stand out above the others.

First was an invention, the Sprague Midget Condenser. The general favorable times of the 1920's and the sudden appearance of the radio industry fired people's imaginations. Actually, the Company was started with another product, but the inventive ability that produced a tone control also created a special type of condenser that the radio industry needed badly. The Sprague Midget brought standardized capacity and standardized quality and ease of installation to the radio industry. Possibly the Midget, standing alone, would eventually have ceased to be a business asset, but an engineering staff was brought in and still more products, tuned to the advancing needs of the radio industry, were brought out.

Selling ability, efficiency in getting in good parts and

## FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

*(Continued from page one)*

new device, and trying to convince the man and his wife that it improved the tone of their set, to the point where they would part with a few hard-earned dollars to invest in stock in the Company. Getting money to start the business and keep it going was the most difficult problem the Company had.

Forced by circumstances to develop and make his own condensers, Mr. Sprague developed the Sprague Midget Condenser. It was a compact unit of stated capacity, extremely reliable and easy to install. The market which had been anticipated for the tone control failed to develop as fast as circumstances required, and it finally became apparent that this product was doomed to failure from a commercial standpoint.

Half the young Company's capital had been lost. It was at this desperate point that the importance of what the Sprague Midget Condenser had brought to the radio industry began to be realized. The Midget was a relatively inexpensive product of excellent quality. Above all, it was standardized and brought a common denominator to condenser problems in an industry which was wildly confused and chaotic. The Company consequently turned its energies to the production of the Midget. No orders were received for several months. Eventually the Company employed two sales representatives. Then the first big order came in. It was for 900 condensers.

It had to be refused. The credit rating of the would-be customer was too doubtful. But other small orders started coming in. At that time, it must be remembered, an inexpensive condenser sold for around 15 cents in contrast to the one-and-a-half to two-cent rates of today. By this time Sprague Specialties had expanded from three girls in a back room at 1380 Hancock Street, Quincy, to slightly larger quarters in the Aywon Storage Battery Company on Washington Street and then to considerably more impressive space providing originally 8,000 square feet of

raw materials, especially the talent to develop additional products and bring quantity along with quality had to be combined with enough production skill to bring the first tremendous growth of the Company. Following that was a period where management had to be tightened, finances put under better control and a check put on rising costs that threatened to give an advantage to competition.

Always, however, one of the top reasons for our success has been the ability to bring out new developments a little sooner and to keep quality a little higher while still keeping within a normal price range. We say this not with any sense of over self-satisfaction, but simply from reviewing our history and trying to analyze some of the factors that have helped our growth.

There have been many difficulties and many disappointments but they have been overcome; and the unprecedented delays, costs, and uncertainties of the present Defense situation are being met in the same spirit that a solution can and will be found. Trying to look ahead a little we would say that the future success of Sprague Specialties will probably depend on the same factors that have brought us to where we are — good workmanship, leading to quantity as well as quality production, the ability to perfect new products and new ways of manufacturing them first and the imagination, coöperation and drive to carry through under constantly changing conditions.

floor space and later about 22,000 square feet at 1511 Hancock Street, Quincy. At the end of 1928 the Company had 543 employees and the need for more space became imperative.

Like any man trying to build a manufacturing business Mr. Sprague relates that he began by doing almost everything himself. He designed the products, found customers, did the buying, the bookkeeping and, above all, as already mentioned, went out and got the money to take care of the payrolls and bills. It was a wild scramble, working often 16 to 18 hours a day to keep the new company above water. Gradually, certain jobs could be turned over to others. Mr. Julian K. Sprague came in as Production Manager and Miss Mollie Avery, the Company's first employee, came in and took over the typing and accounts, the latter job being handled today by half a dozen employees equipped with numerous expensive machines. Two other charter members of the Company were Mrs. Bertha Osborne, now Mrs. Patstone, and Miss Ruth Helfrich.

Once the business got on its feet from a sales and operating standpoint, new and changing problems began to arise. The story of the development of Sprague Specialties after it came to North Adams has been already told in the Log. The duties of the president, R. C. Sprague, have, like the problems of the Company, changed with expansion. Fifteen years ago his job was personally attending to almost every matter that came up. Today he is coöordinating work that he once did himself. He is responsible both to the customers and for the Company, working through department heads and assistants whose policies he directs and coöordinates. Problems of the Company are different but just as acute as at the start. The Log pays tribute in this Anniversary Issue not only to the man whose ingenuity and vigor have directed so remarkable a growth but to his many associates in the Company whose able efforts have made this possible, and to the fact that this remarkable progress, taking place during the country's worst depression, seems to be proof that America is, and will remain, a land of opportunity.